

EFFECTIVE

December 1, 2022.

Subject(s)**Services Requirements (SR) 108, Family First Prevention Services Act**

1. Purpose.
2. Eligibility.
3. Program Responsibilities.
4. Prevention Services.
5. Effective date of SRM 108, 10/01/2021.

1) Purpose

SRM 108, Family First Prevention Services Act, is a new policy enacted to address available funding through the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA). FFPSA was enacted as part of Public Law 115-123 which authorized new funding for prevention services for specified individuals known as candidates for foster care. Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) prioritizes child safety and believes that the best way to keep children safe is to support families through services. The goal of FFPSA is for fewer children to experience initial or recurrent maltreatment and entry into foster care.

2) Eligibility

Eligibility for prevention services is based on a child and their siblings meeting criteria for being a candidate for foster care, or a pregnant or parenting youth who is currently in foster care. Candidacy for foster care is based on any of the following factors:

- A child for whom abuse or neglect has been confirmed.
- A child who resides in a household where CA/N has not been confirmed but the Risk Assessment score is low to intensive.
- A child who was previously placed in foster care but has been returned to their parent or relative.
- A child who has delinquent behaviors and is under the supervision of MDHHS by court order and has been returned home.

- A child is at imminent risk of entering foster care as otherwise determined by a tribe.
- An infant born exposed to substances.
- A child's adoption or guardianship is at risk of disruption or dissolution.
- A child whose parent is under the age of 26 and has been in foster care as a child themselves.

3) Program Responsibilities

Children's Protective Services (CPS)

CPS caseworkers will assess eligibility for FFPSA based on candidacy criteria. There are several criteria that are applicable under CPS. A child only needs to meet one criteria to be eligible.

CPS caseworkers will utilize Structured Decision Making (SDM) Safety and Risk Assessments to determine eligibility for children. The caseworker must document the candidacy in the prevention record within the electronic case record and route to their supervisor. The supervisor must approve the case prior to beginning prevention services. A Family Team Meeting (FTM) must also be held with the family and supports to discuss prevention services. Dependent upon the candidacy criteria the caseworker may provide case management and be responsible for the child specific plan or case responsibilities may transfer to a prevention caseworker, adoption agency support staff, or a Michigan Youth Opportunities Initiative (MYOI) caseworker.

Foster Care

Foster care caseworkers will assess eligibility for FFPSA which includes if a child is under court jurisdiction and MDHHS supervision and has been returned home or if they are a pregnant or parenting youth currently in foster care.

The foster care caseworker completes the SDM assessments including the Safety Assessment, Child Assessment of Needs and Strengths, and the Family Assessment of Needs and Strengths to assist with determination of recommendation to return home to a parent or relative as well as assessing needs and strengths for servicing. The caseworker documents the eligibility in the electronic

case record and transfers to their supervisor for approval prior to beginning prevention services for the family.

Juvenile Justice

A juvenile justice caseworker utilizes the Michigan Juvenile Justice Assessment System (MJJAS) and the Juvenile Justice Strengths and Needs Assessment. The results of these assessments will determine eligibility as well as need for supports and services. The eligibility is documented in the electronic case record and is transferred to a supervisor for approval prior to a child beginning services.

Other Candidacy Areas

A child whose adoption or guardianship is identified as being at risk for disruption or dissolution may be identified by a CPS caseworker, Post Adoption Resource Center (PARC) staff, or by an adoption and guardianship analyst through MDHHS. If a child is identified as a possible candidate for foster care by staff at the Adoption and Guardianship Assistance Office (AGAO), the AGAO will send the AGAO-PARC referral form, with permission of the family to the applicable PARC where the family/guardian resides. If a child is identified as a possible candidate for foster care by PARC they will send the Adoption/Guardianship Prevention Service Request/Intent Statement form and a Family-Centered Plan to the Adoption and Guardianship analyst at MDHHS. The analyst will document eligibility in the electronic case record. The eligibility must be approved by a supervisor prior to prevention services beginning.

Family Team Meeting (FTM)

Prior to identifying and referring a family to prevention services the caseworker must facilitate an FTM. The facilitator must work with participants to facilitate a child-specific prevention plan for safety, placement stability, well-being, and permanency. The plan should be tailored to the individual needs of each child and their caregivers.

4) Prevention Services

Depending on the candidacy criteria and case type, a family may be served through one of three service tracks in the prevention continuum including:

- Prevention Services for Families.

- Family First Prevention Services.
- Family Preservation and Reunification Services.

Each child enrolled in prevention services who is a candidate for foster care must have a child-specific prevention plan which includes the following:

- A foster care prevention strategy that is ensuring the child can remain safely in their home with their family or with a relative caregiver.
- Services to be provided on behalf of the child to ensure success of the prevention strategy.

For pregnant or parenting youth, the child specific prevention plan must additionally contain the following:

- Services to be provided to ensure that the youth is prepared and able to parent.
- Description of the foster care prevention strategy for any child born to the youth.

The child specific prevention plan is accessible within the electronic record, and dependent upon program will be documented through the following:

- The Updated Services Plan (USP) for CPS.
- The case service plan for foster care.
- The juvenile justice service plan for juvenile justice.
- The DHS 1614, Prevention Services Case Plan for Families, for prevention only cases.

Caseworkers must meet at least monthly with the child or family to assess child safety. Caseworkers will also be trained in motivational interviewing and are able to reflect use of these skills in contacts with caregivers by selecting the checkbox for motivational interviewing in the electronic case record. Caseworkers must also complete program specific assessments at regular intervals, in alignment with program specific policy, to assess safety and risk for candidates.

Prevention services may be provided up to 12 months; however, if there is need and the family is willing to continue services, the caseworker may complete a new candidacy determination to continue services.

Reason: Family First Prevention Services Act, Public Law 115-123.

**MANUAL
MAINTENANCE
INSTRUCTIONS**

Added Items ...

[SRM 108](#)